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From the Dean

Edmund Beard

University of Massachusetts Boston, edmund.beard@umb.edu

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From the Dean

Edmund Beard

There are several important changes taking place around the *New England Journal of Public Policy* at the moment. Most momentous by far is that Padraig O'Malley, first and only Editor of this journal and its guiding light from day one, is retiring from the University of Massachusetts after a long and distinguished career. Readers of this journal will no doubt know Padraig primarily from his editorial duties and his erudite and passionate editor's notes. But Padraig is much more. A prolific writer, Padraig is the author of numerous books and articles. His *The Uncivil Wars: Ireland Today* (1985) won the Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize, and *Biting at the Grave: The Irish Hunger Strikes and the Politics of Despair* (1990), was selected as one of the Best Books of 1990 by the *New York Times Book Review*. For over a decade he has been deeply involved in study and advocacy in South Africa, focusing on both the transition from white minority to black majority rule and on the devastation being wrought by the AIDS epidemic. Padraig will continue with us as Editor Emeritus and is, indeed, hard at work on an upcoming issue devoted to war. We are delighted to wish Padraig well during this transitional stage and equally delighted that he will continue to be associated with this journal.

Some of you will also have noted that this brief message is titled "From the Dean," not "From the Director." That is because the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs has become the core of the new John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at UMass Boston, and I am named first Dean. The new School will incorporate the present graduate programs in Public Policy, Gerontology, Public Affairs, and Women in Politics and Public Policy. It will also become the new home of our Gerontology Institute and the centers for State and Local Policy; Social Policy, Democracy and Development; and Women in Politics and Public Policy. That we are doing all this in the middle of a major state and university-wide budget crunch is testimony either to our optimism or to our naiveté. In any event these transitions, and our budget preoccupations, have caused this issue, due out last spring, to be delayed, and for that we apologize.✻

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